

REMARKS

Applicants respond to the Office Action dated June 2, 2004 in which claims 1-11 were pending. In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 1-11 based on a cited informality, noted a point of claim interpretation regarding claim 6, rejected claims 1-4 and 6-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable in view of Kashiwazaki et al. (US 2003/0164207 A1) in view of Applicants' admitted prior art, and objected to claim 5 as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response, the Applicants submit the above-listed amendments and the following remarks for further consideration of the present application.

The Examiner objected to claims 1-11 based upon the word "possibly" in claim 1. In accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, Applicants have amended claim 1 to recited "optionally" in place of "possibly."

As mentioned, the Examiner objected to claim 5 but deemed it allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all limitations from the base claim. Accordingly, Applicants have taken the Examiner's suggestion and, accordingly, further amended claim 1 (the independent base claim of claim 5) to incorporate the limitations from dependent claim 5. Thus, Applicants canceled claim 5, present amended claim 1 as being in condition for allowance and hereby request the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Regarding claim 6, the Applicants appreciate the Examiner's consideration and comments on the interpretation of certain claim terms. In order to clarify this claim, Applicants have further amended claim 6.

Regarding dependent claims 2-4 and 6-11, Applicants note the arguments set forth above regarding independent claim 1 as being applicable to these claims by virtue of their dependency upon claim 1. Thus, at least for that reason, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claims 2-4 and 6-11 be withdrawn as these dependent claims are also in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: August 31, 2004

By: _____



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